

The Colored American

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We solicit news, contributions, opinions and in fact, all matters affecting the race. We will not pay for matter, however, unless it is ordered by us. All matter intended for publication must reach this office by Wednesday of each week to insure insertion in the current issue.

Agents are wanted everywhere. Send or instructions.

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AGENTS WANTED EVERYWHERE.

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THE COLORED AMERICAN,
459 C Street N. W.,
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IN THE LEAD.

There are 112 newspapers, with a combined circulation each issue of 76,500 copies, published in the interests of the 7,570,000 Afro-Americans in the United States. The one paper believed to have the largest circulation is THE COLORED AMERICAN, Washington, D. C.—Printers Ink, June 24, '96

A PRINCIPLE AT STAKE.

Washington has a "Jim Crow" theater. It is run by strangers in this city, men who have no concern for the good name of the national capital. Burke and Chase, theatrical adventurers, mistaking the temper of the liberal and law-abiding citizens of the white race, who have made Washington the most orderly municipality of its size in the country, have come here to stir up a race feeling that had, to a large extent, been allayed by the generous policy of our leading amusement managers and business men. They decided that they would shut colored people out of the orchestra of the theater recently leased by them, in defiance of the civil rights law of the District. The directors of the first class houses have sold seats to Negroes for any portion of their auditoriums, and no complaints have reached the ears of anyone. The Washington public has made no outcry that would justify the New Grand in excluding the better classes of our race from the enjoyment of the most comfortable privileges of the theaters here. There was no call for this importation of methods foreign to the feelings or demands of this community. It is gratuitous insult to the humane and Christian impulses of the Capital, and high-handed outrage against one-third of its population, is not resented by a general declination to patronize such an institution, we are very greatly mistaken. Messrs. Burke and Chase's finish is in plain view, and we predict that they will soon find the New Grand, with its "Jim Crow" tactics, a losing speculation, as all such ventures have been in the past. "Whom the gods would destroy, they first make mad."

Now, the matter of purchasing a particular seat in a theater is a small issue in itself. Very few people find satisfaction in forcing themselves into places where they are not wanted, and it is not believed that our citizens desired to make any trouble of the kind that has arisen. But when a body of men undertake to elect what laws they will obey and what they will ignore, a serious and far reaching question presents itself, and a dangerous precedent becomes established, if the thing is not checked by vigorous resistance. There is a statute, duly entered upon the books, that no person shall be denied admission to theaters, restaurants, etc., on account of color.

This law was unceremoniously set aside by Burke and Chase. If they are permitted to violate this statute without objection, it is only a matter of time when the same practice might extend to other theaters—even where the patrons offer no protest against colored persons. This is the principle involved, and those who believe that laws are passed in good faith, do not intend to yield an inch in their contention for their honest enforcement. We are not unreasonable in expecting and demanding the rights that are legitimately ours. In insisting upon them, we do not interfere with the prerogatives or comfort of anyone else.

The sensible citizens here, white and

colored, are ready to give their approval when an individual is refused privileges by reason of uncleanness, disorderly conduct to failure to observe the just regulations of the premises where they seek entertainment; but we submit that when our teachers, doctors, lawyers, editors, business men and respectable industrial elements present themselves, to turn them away, like so many cattle, is not only humiliating and outrageous to the lady or gentleman so insulted, but is an infraction of a fundamental principle of our government, which carried to its logical conclusion means an usurpation of the functions of the judiciary by private individuals and the reduction of the nation to a state of anarchy. The black man is fully justified in this determined stand against the management of the New Grand, and it is hoped they will not be persuaded to abandon their position until the highest court in the land has had a chance to pass again upon the applicability of the civil rights law to the District of Columbia and the territories. In this controversy, is bound up the dearest jewel of our citizenship. Burke and Chase merely furnish the occasion for the demonstration of a far-reaching principle.

A man cannot always get what he thinks he deserves, but he should be careful to make the best of what he does get.

A. M. E. CONFERENCE AT COLUMBUS

The General Conference of the A. M. E. Church will be held, as originally scheduled, in Columbus, Ohio. All doubts on this score have been set at rest by an authoritative statement to the above effect. The assurance comes from a high source. It was conceded that the Methodist church at that point was inadequate to seat the Conference, but the public-spirited citizens of the Buckeye capital got together and decided to lease a large auditorium, embracing an assembly room with a capacity to accommodate 5,000 people, and dining rooms and sleeping apartments under one roof. Many of the ministers will be cared for in this building, and the homes of the members and friends will be open for the entertainment of the remainder. There will ample room for all, and it is expected that since the location is so central, the Conference will attract a larger number of visitors than have been present at any previous meeting in a number of years. The body will gather the first week in May, 1900, and will be called upon to dispose of some very important legislation.

An education is worth nothing that is not applied to some good purpose.

VICE PRESIDENT HOBART.

Vice President Garret A. Hobart, after many weeks of suffering, has joined the silent majority. His death robs the country of the services of a truly great man. He was one of the biggest, brained and most generous-hearted men in public life, and his career has ever been guided with due regard for the rights of all people, irrespective of color, creed or condition. He has ever been willing to help the unfortunate, and to bare his breast in protection of the down-trodden. There was no cant, or hypocrisy in his make up. No class of citizens will more sincerely regret his untimely taking off than will the Negro. He has been our friend wherever he could be effective in our behalf, and has refused to give his approval to those republican leaders who argue that the party can increase its strength in certain sections of the country by departing from the old moorings of humanity and equality of citizenship and leaving the Negro to shift for himself among powerful antagonists. It is one of the regrettable things, emphasized by the dissolution of Mr. Hobart, that such a few friends of the black man succeed in getting into high office, and that those who do reach places of influence die when we stand in the greatest need of their commanding heroism. Mr. Hobart was truly an American statesman, and one of those who will be missed.

An ignorant Negro is no better than an ignorant white man—and certainly no worse.

Booker T. Washington's interview on suffrage in Georgia, published in our last issue, strikes the nail squarely on the head. It is the fullest and most comprehensive utterance he has yet made on this subject, and will be read with interest and profit everywhere.

The Washington Post last Sunday week threw a neat and deserved bouquet into Booker T. Washington's corner.

Dewey's presidential boom is "bustled."

Mr. and Mrs. Dewey evidently read the newspapers. The Admiral highly offended the American people by foolishly conveying his home to his wealthy wife, but a strong adverse public sentiment forced a transfer of the property to his son. The explanation why three deeds were necessary to do the thing that one would have done with equal satisfaction, is an explanation

that does not explain. The people can see as far into a mill-stone as the man who picks it.

Read the letter of Major Charles R. Douglass in this issue.

Bishop Walters can get even with his enemies by praying for them. Some of them need it.

The humble Negro we still have with us—more's the pity. But his numbers are growing beautifully less.

Correspondents and patrons will do well to read the remarks we made in the "Editor's Corner" department last week.

The kind of people Manager Chase says he wanted to keep out of range of his "regular patrons" do not indulge in orchestra seats.

The Afro-American Council promptly came to the rescue of the Negroes who were discriminated against by the management of the "Jim-crow" theater.

We opine that Manager Chase will conclude that drawing the color line in Washington theaters is an expensive pastime. The New Grand is a "dead end."

One mistake on the part of a popular idol can ruin the work of a lifetime. He who walks in the white light of public scrutiny must be careful or he falls.

There is a civil rights law in the District of Columbia. All that is needed is a determined element of our race who will contend for their rights under it, and a set of officials honest enough to enforce it.

We do not think the Washington people or the Washington courts will stand for a "Jim Crow" theater, any more than they will tolerate a "Jim Crow" street car.

Judge Mills is made of the kind of material that we should like to see grace a bench in one of our courts. He believes in enforcement of law applicable alike to black and white.

Perhaps Manager Chase hereafter will be content to enroll respectable colored ladies and gentlemen among his "regular patrons,"—if they will consent to come to his "Jim-crow" house.

The so-called "explanation" of Manager Chase, of the New Grand published in last Sunday's Post, was the lamest thing ever given to the public prints. It was a tissue of falsehoods and misrepresentations.

It is barely possible that men standing for evil worse than polygamy may hold seats in the coming Congress, and the churches women's conventions and other agencies of reform won't enter a protest against them either.

The New York Telegraph is an enemy to the progress of the Negro. The Washington Post cannot better run its so-called "influence" with decent people than by printing The Telegraph's vicious libels upon a struggling race, with comments that sear like a hot iron.

Whatever may be the moral aspect of Mr. Roberts' presence in Congress, it seems that he is about as good as his constituents, and that his numerous wives are satisfied with matters as they stand. There are people who are stirring up a lot of trouble for the Utah Congressman, but it is not our guess that he will be unseated.

The fact that the respectable white people of this community do not hate worthy Negroes was happily demonstrated last week, when scores of Caucasians willingly walked up to the box office of the New Grand and purchased orchestra tickets to be used by colored people. The American instinct of fair play is not dead. This is the silver lining to the black man's cloud.

Williams and Walker Entertained. Messrs. Gray and Costly entertained in a splendid manner Williams and Walker, the comedians, after the matinee performance last Saturday. The other guests were Dr. W. B. Evans and Mr. A. O. Stafford, making a party of six. The choicest delicacies of the season, among them oysters, terrapin and quail were served in that style in keeping with the culinary reputation of the known restaurateurs. The label of the beverages bore the marks of France.

The colored people of the town would have had a great deal more respect for Williams and Walker had they refused to play last week, after learning of the shameful way our best citizens were being treated by the peanut vendors of the Grand. They would not have lost anything in the long run by sticking out, for they are in such strong demand everywhere—that they can make the theater managers come their way. A white man will not stand for color discrimination to the detriment of his pocket book.



BISHOP HENRY M. TURNER.

A Tribune of the People. He is Doing one of the Grandest Services of a Long and Honorable Career by Helping to Strangle the Life out of the Infamous Hardwick Bill in Georgia. See account elsewhere in this issue

THE BAKER FAMILY'S HOME

Through Contributions From a Generous Public They are Placed Beyond Want.

Small Additional Sum Needed for Furniture—Political Matters Among Bostonians—Republicans Must "Get a Handle on Them" to Hold Negro Vote in Line—Washingtonians in Evidence—Miscellaneous Mention.

Boston, Mass. Special.—The Baker family at last have a home of their own. Wm. Lloyd Garrison has been instrumental in getting a large number of philanthropic people to subscribe \$983 to the Home Funds to which was added \$314 formerly deposited in a local trust company for the Baker family, making a total \$1,302. Out of this amount Mr. Garrison purchased a brick house at 91 Highland street, Chelsea, a suburban city of Boston, for \$1,250. In addition \$54.03 has been paid on account of taxes, clothing and provisions. A small sum for insurance is due as the house is taxed for \$2,000. The investment is considered a very satisfactory one. The house contains ten rooms, half of which Mrs. Baker will occupy. The remainder she can let. Mr. Garrison suggests however, that there is need of \$200 for proper furniture. And here is an excellent opportunity for our people in all sections of the country to contribute to the Bakers' home. That secured and the family settled in the new home, all further appeals to the public must cease. Mrs. Baker is confident that thereafter she and her children can support themselves. Let every colored newspaper, every colored church and every colored society take a collection to furnish the necessary means to place the furniture needed in the home. Any amount of money, however small, will be gratefully acknowledged by Wm. Lloyd Garrison, Room 218, John Hancock Building, 178 Devonshire street, Boston, Mass. Let every one of our race, high or low, rich or poor, respond at once to this appeal.

The services of the A. M. E. Zion church, Rev. S. F. Dickson pastor, were well attended last Sunday. The pastor rendered a beautiful discourse in the morning. The Sunday School convened at 1:30 p.m., Mr. John W. Williams, superintendent. Subject of lesson, "Rebelling the Walls of Jerusalem" was ably reviewed by Mrs. A. Gardner, one of the oldest and leading members of the Sunday School and also a prominent resident of Boston. An excellent concert was rendered by a class of young ladies taught by Miss Rosella Saunders. In the evening the Doctor's subject was "Grieve Not the Holy Spirit," Ephesians iv—30. The choir under the direction of Mue. Alice Tolson, the talented organist rendered appropriate music. This church will give its grand annual fair from December 5 to the 15, inclusive. Mesdames G. O. Smith, M. Dickson, K. Johnson, L. Mackey, H. Young, Misses L. Miner, E. Barrow, A. E. Carter, D. Long and Mrs. S. H. David are heads of different booths. Mr. E. W. Barrows has a shooting gallery. Mrs. Florence C. Contee, formerly of Washington, D. C., and the representative of The Colored American in the A. M. E. Zion Church, was one of the prominent assistants at the recent Boston Food Fair at Mechanic Building; will have charge of the gelatine table and will furnish interesting topics of the doings of the fair to this paper. Mr. L. C. Calloway chairman, J. Henderson, assistant clerk and H. Spirt, treasurer, are the leading officials of the church.

The cut and sketch of Mrs. Roswell B. Bates, the only lady funeral director in the United States, and a graduate of the Massachusetts School of Embalming

will appear in the columns of this paper in the near future

The caucus in ward 11 was a spirited one from the opening of the polls, at 2:30 p.m. until the close at 9 o'clock on Wednesday evening, the 16th inst. There was a contest in this ward between George H. Tinkham, the resident candidate for the nomination for alderman, and Charles D. B. Fisk, of ward 25, wards 11 and 25 forming the same aldermanic district, and Tinkham won out by a handsome margin. There was also a contest for the ward committee, two full tickets being in the field, besides two colored men who were running independent of both. There were nine candidates for the common council.

These varied interests caused a big turnout at the Prince schoolhouse, the balloting place.

The colored men's independent ticket bore the names of S. William Simms and Frank E. Turpin. This was put in by the colored voters of the ward as a protest to the ward committee against the names of William L. Reed and Benjamin F. Powell. The returns on their face show that Simms received 129 votes and Turpin 249, and indicate that both Reed and Powell were re-elected to their old positions on the ward committee by the white vote of the ward.

Another interesting contest was that for the common council, in which nine candidates entered. The returns show that the preferences were as follows:

Edward A. Armistead, 578 Milton G. Barnes, 72; Alfred H. Colby, 325; Morris Frankel 66; William H. Godfrey, 64; Albert W. Monty, 182; Nelson I. Southwick, 296; William S. B. Stevens, 605; Lawrence M. Stock on, 687.

John E. Gill of Ward 7 headed the municipal delegation to the city convention. David R. Robinson of ward ten is elected to the ward committee; also Samuel Harris from the same ward. John W. Johnson and Butler R. Wilson were elected to attend the municipal convention from ward 12. Ward 18 sent as her representatives in the city convention, Lawyer Edgar P. Benjamin, Joseph W. Hendricks, and Wilbur C. Ward. Charles H. Diggs is re-elected to the ward committee, as is also Edgar Benjamin.

Isaac Allen formerly of the Governor's Council, was ill at his home and did not participate in the political battle.

After a spirited contest, Gen. Patrick A. Collins has been nominated by the democrats for mayor.

Comrade Gillman of the R. G. Shaw Veteran Association who died at his home on Woodbury street, (South End) recently was buried with full military honors from St. Paul Baptist church last Sunday. Revs. A. W. Adams and Allen S. Rich officiated at the services. Comrade Chas. Mulligan, a prominent politician of ward 18 had the funeral in charge.

Charles Diggs, Esq., formerly of Washington, D. C. is the energetic member of the ward 11 republican committee. He will endeavor to aid in increasing the circulation of the Colored American in the South End. Items of local interest to South End patrons can be sent to him at his place of business, 8 Kendall street.

Joe Hendricks is the leading official of a popular social club at 12 Kendall street, Boston, Mass. Joe Clark is the efficient manager.

The cut and sketch of Sergeant Carney of New Bedford's letter carrier force, late of the gallant 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Militia and the hero of Fort Wagner will appear soon in the columns of this paper. The Sergeant is one of the most respected citizens of the Whaling City.

Word has reached us that Mrs. E. A. Graves, one of the most prominent women at Cape Town, South Africa is en route to this country bearing letters

of the highest indorsement from Rev. Charles Morris formerly of the City of Magnificent Distances and other prominent clergyman in Africa. She will visit London to see her son who is a student of merit in one of the educational institutions before proceeding to America, where she has many relatives and friends. She is accompanied by a private secretary and comes to this country to recuperate her health, as well as to study its industrial school methods and to purchase a printing outfit for a newspaper and job office. She will visit Washington and other cities.

The many friends of Miss Lennie B. Cox, principal of the colored public school at Newbern, Va., will be pained to learn of her serious illness. The authorities have been compelled to close the school and she will be much missed in religious circles as well as by the pupils of the school to whom she has endeared herself by her gentle demeanor. It is the wish of all that she may speedily recover.

It is said that one of our prominent society people was exceedingly wrath at an item that appeared in the Boston letter last week.

Ex-Representative Wm. L. Reed was out and able to vote on election day, November 7th. His face was misused at the polls on local election day.

Miss Louisa Lewis, granddaughter of the late Hon. Richard S. Brown, and a young lady of talent, formerly clerk in the Massachusetts Bureau of Labor Statistics is an applicant for a position in the United States Census office and is highly indorsed. She is a book-keeper, stenographer and typewriter.

Miss Miriam Benjamin is an applicant for the position of clerk in the U. S. census office. She has been a school teacher at Washington, D. C. and was a competent clerk in the office of Hon. Robert P. Porter the efficient director of the 11th census.

Miss Smith, daughter of Mr. Smith, the late librarian in the National House of Representatives is ill at the residence of Mrs. Johnson 57 Windsor street. She is here as a student at the New England Conservatory of Music and is receiving every attention that living hands and kind hearts can give. Miss Louisa Lewis and Mrs. Johnson render her every assistance in their power.

The Boston Typewriting Machine Inspection company has deputed J. D. Powell, Jr. to act as an agent. Typewriters purchased from them are kept in repair one year free of charge. Selling from \$20.00 to \$100.00. All makes. Latest improvements. Shipped to any address by express.

It appears to us unless the republicans get on a hostile by election day they will be minus several votes at the polls. The democrats are adopting the plan of commingling with the colored voters and they are getting the voters who have heretofore voted the straight republican ticket. They say democratic fellow is not so bad after all. Ye republicans take warning at this advice and give the "Brother in Black" some of the offices.

Eureka Lodge of Masons held a "Ladies Night" at Arcade Hall Monday evening. White's Orchestra furnished the music. The ladies were handsomely attired. There was a good attendance. Brothers O. A. Potter, Andrew J. Fassett and Benjamin F. Powell were marshal, floor director and chairman of committee respectively.

J. Harry Wolfe, leader of Wolfe's orchestra. Lamartine J. Brown, baritone soloist and concert manager and J. D. Powell, Jr., press representative are arranging for a grand concert and reception in aid of the R. A. Bell Relief Corps No. 67 at Pades Hall in December. The G. A. R., W. R. C. and S. of V. will be represented in large numbers.

Bunker Hill Tabernacle has a new acquisition to its membership in the True Reformers order in the person of J. D. Powell, Jr. GYAG-SHER.

PRESIDENT MCKINLEY

Tenders an Elegant Reception to Bishops and Missionary Committee of M. E. Church—Noble Afro-Americans Present.

On Thursday, November 19, from 10:30 p.m., the Bishops and Missionary Committee of the Methodist Episcopal Church were tendered a magnificent reception at the White House by President and Mrs. McKinley. The executive and his amiable wife were assisted in receiving by the members of the Cabinet and their wives. Prominent guests from all over the country were present, the total number enjoying the President's hospitality being 556. Luncheon was served in the State dining room, and the menu embraced many select and toothsome dishes. Among those who were invited were Rev. Dr. M. C. B. Mason, corresponding secretary of the Freedman's Aid Society, Cincinnati; Rev. Dr. J. B. Scott, editor of the Southwestern Christian Advocate, Rev. Dr. Ernest Lyons, of Baltimore, Md.; Rev. M. W. Clark, presiding elder of the Washington District; Rev. Dr. I. L. Thomas, pastor of Asbury Church, and Rev. Dr. E. W. S. Peck, pastor of Mt. Zion church, this city.

The Grand Opera House deserves to fail.